



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

NGOC NGUYEN, MD
3100 TIMMONS LANE, STE 250
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

Respondent Name

NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE CO

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 19

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-11-2832-01

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "CARRIER REFUSES TO PAY FULL AMOUNT DUE FOR SERVICES RENDERED, EVEN AFTER A REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION WAS SUBMITTED."

Amount in Dispute: \$150.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Chartis has reviewed the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Request/Response (DWC-60). In reviewing the report, it is the carrier's position that the bill was paid correctly. Per Rule 134.204(j)(4)(C)(i), for the musculoskeletal body areas, the examining doctor may bill for a maximum of three body areas. These musculoskeletal body areas are defined as: (I) spine and pelvis; (II) upper extremities and hands; and (III) lower extremities (including feet). The lumbar, thoracic, and cervical are part of the spine and equals one unit."

Response Submitted by: Chartis, 4100 Alpha Rd, Ste. 700, Dallas, TX 75244

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
October 29, 2010	99456-W5-WP	\$150.00	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.204 sets out Medical Fee Guidelines for workers' compensation specific services effective March 1, 2008.
3. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:

Explanation of benefits dated December 29, 2010

- W1 – Workers Compensation State Fee Schedule Adjustment
- VRNA – No Reduction Available.
- Z710 – The charge for this procedure exceeds the fee schedule allowance.

Issues

1. Has the Designated Doctor (DD) examination been reimbursed appropriately per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.204?
2. Is the requestor entitled to additional reimbursement for disputed services under 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.204?

Findings

1. The provider billed the amount of \$650.00 for CPT code 99456-W5-WP for a DD examination for Maximum Medical Improvement/Impairment Rating (MMI/IR). Review of the documentation supports that MMI was assigned and one body area (spinal) was rated. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.204(j)(3)(C), the Maximum Allowable Reimbursement (MAR) for MMI is \$350.00. Per Texas Administrative Code §134.204(j)(4)(C)(i)(I), lumbar, cervical, thoracic and pelvis are part of one body area, the spine. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.204(j)(4)(C)(ii)(I), the MAR for an IR using Diagnosis Related Estimates (DRE) method on both lumbar and cervical (spinal region) is \$150.00. The combined MAR for the MMI/IR services rendered is \$500.00.
2. The respondent has already reimbursed the amount of \$500.00 for the disputed CPT code 99456-W5-WP. Therefore, the requestor is not entitled to additional reimbursement.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has not established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the disputed services.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

January 19, 2012
Date

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party**.

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.